

Message Text

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44

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMBASSY LONDON 337

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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TAGS: PFOR,PGOV, EEC

SUBJECT: ORTOLI COMMENTS ON STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

1. EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI, IN A SPEECH TO A MEETING OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS IN MAINZ SEPTEMBER 13, ANSWERED SOME RECENT CRITICISMS OF THE COMMISION AND REVIEWED THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY. HE SAID THAT EUROPE HAS RECENTLY BEGUN TO ADVANCE AGAIN AND CITED AS EXAMPLES OF RECENT PROGRESS ITS MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, ITS DEVELOPMENT AID POLICIES AND THE "SLOW BUT SURE RESUMPTION OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COOPERATION." HOWEVER, PROGRESS MUST BE CONTINUED BECAUSE NO PROGRESS WOULD MEAN STAGNATION AND, ORTOLI SAID, IT WOULD "TAKE LITTLE TO CHANGE THE COUNCIL INTO A COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, THE COMMISSION INTO A SECRETARIAT, THE PARLIAMENT INTO A BODY OF

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TECHNICAL ADVISERS, AND THE COMMON MARKET INTO A FREE

TRADE AREA." ORTOLI SAID THAT ENERGY AND REGIONAL POLICY ARE TWO AREAS WHERE PROGRESS MUST BE MADE.

2. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE IS ALSO A POLITICAL ASPECT TO THESE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING EUROPE AND SAID THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS THERE MUST BE COMMON POLICIES IN ADDITIONAL AREAS. WHILE COOPERATION BETWEEN MEMBER STATES SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED, MOST PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN UNITY HAS BEEN MADE IN THE AREA WHERE THERE ARE COMMON POLICIES: THE CUSTOMS UNION, THE COMMON COMMERCIAL POLICY, AND THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, "IN SPITE OF THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES."

3. ORTOLI THEN TURNED TO A DISCUSSION OF THE INSTITUTIONS AND THE INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY OF THE COMMUNITY AND REFERRED TO CRITICISMS OF THE COMMISSION, THE BUDGET AND THE COUNCIL. REGARDING THE COMMISSION, HE REPEATED THE NOW FAMILIAR ARGUMENT THAT THE COMMISSION IS NOT EXCESSIVELY LARGE IN VIEW OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT IT MUST SERVICE NINE MEMBER STATES IN SIX LANGUAGES WITH SEVERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS EACH MONTH. REGARDING THE BUDGET, HE SAID THAT LARGER FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE NECESSARY; IF RESEARCH POLICY IS EXTENDED, IF THE YAOUNDE ASSOCIATION IS EXTENDED, IF A REGIONAL FUND IS CREATED, MONEY WILL BE NEEDED FOR THESE POLICIES. HE NOTED THAT EVEN THE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WORKING PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL HAVE COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF COMMISSION INITIATIVES AND NOTED THAT IF ALL THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS HAD BEEN ADOPTED THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE TAKEN ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

4. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION FACED THE SAME OBSTACLES. THOSE OBSTACLES ARE: FIRST, REFUSAL OF THE MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS TO HAVE COMMON POLICIES IN ADDITIONAL AREAS, WHICH MEANS THAT AD HOC DECISIONS MUST BE REACHED. SECOND, THE RULE OF UNANIMITY, WHICH IS AN OBSTACLE WHICH IS FELT AT ALL LEVELS IN THE COUNCIL AND COMMISSION. FINALLY, DISAGREEMENT REMAINS AMONG THE MEMBER STATES ON SOME OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

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5. ORTOLI ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WAS REALISTIC TO SPEAK OF TRANSFERRING CERTAIN COMMISSION POWERS TO THE COUNCIL AND ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT POWERS MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED. THE POWER OF INITIATION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN FROM THE MEMBER STATES WHETHER BY TREATY OR BY PRACTICE. THE POWER OF DECISION REMAINS WITH THE COUNCIL IN ANY CASE. THE POWER OF ADMINISTRATION COULD NOT BE EXPECTED

TO BE PERFORMED BY THE COUNCIL. FINALLY, ORTOLI SAID, THE COMMISSION PROVIDES THE BEST POSSIBLE GUARANTEE AGAINST IMBALANCES WHICH COULD RESULT BECAUSE OF THE VARYING IMPORTANCE OF MEMBER STATES.

6. ORTOLI CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT ALL COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS NEED TO BE STRENGTHENED. HE SAID THERE ARE TWO WAYS IN WHICH THE INSTITUTIONS CAN BE "COMPLEMENTED." FIRST, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CAN BE STRENGTHENED AND THE DECISION TO INCREASE ITS BUDGETARY POWERS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. SECOND, THE LEADERS OF THE MEMBERSTATES CAN PROVIDE AN IMPETUS TOWARD IMPORTANT POLITICAL DECISIONS AND ORTOLI THEREFORE WELCOMED THE PERSONAL INTEREST IN EUROPE BY HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT.

7. THE TEXT OF ORTOLI'S SPEECH WILL BE FORWARDED TO EUR/RPE. GREENWALD

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